

Navy New London Public Affairs Office

Media Advisory

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Navy to commission final Seawolf-class submarine

GROTON, Conn. – The Navy will commission the third and final Seawolf-class nuclear-powered fast-attack submarine, USS Jimmy Carter (SSN 23), 11 a.m., Saturday, Feb. 19 at Pier 17 on Naval Submarine Base New London's (SUBASE) Lower Base.

President Jimmy Carter, ship's sponsor Rosalynn Carter and retired Adm. Stansfield Turner will be present for this historic event. Turner, who served as the director of the Central Intelligence Agency under President Carter, will also be the ceremony's principal speaker. The Honorable Gordon R. England, Secretary of the Navy, will commission the ship.

Constructed at the General Dynamics Electric Boat Shipyard here, Jimmy Carter is the first naval vessel to be named for the 39th President of the United States. Designed to meet the challenges of the 21st century, the submarine's unique features enable it to work more effectively in shallow water and support special operations forces, without sacrificing Seawolf-class warfighting capabilities.

Jimmy Carter's flexibility provides the Navy with an undersea combat platform able to perform a wide spectrum of operations anywhere in the world.

One standout feature separating this submarine from all others is its Multi-Mission Platform (MMP), which includes a 100-foot, 2,500-ton hull extension that enhances payload capability. The MMP enables Jimmy Carter to accommodate the technology required to develop and test an entirely new generation of weapons, sensors and undersea vehicles. At the same time, the submarine retains the operational characteristics of the Seawolf-class -- the fastest and most heavily armed undersea combatants in the world.

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JIMMY CARTER COMMISSIONING

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Jimmy Carter's first commanding officer is Capt. Robert D. Kelso, a native of Fayetteville, Tenn., and a 1983 graduate of Virginia Polytechnic Institute. He leads a crew of 14 officers and 126 enlisted Sailors.

Jimmy Carter will transfer in late 2005 to the U.S. Pacific Fleet to its new homeport in Naval Base Kitsap, Wash.

For more information on the Jimmy Carter commissioning, please visit the Jimmy Carter Commissioning website at www.csg2.navy.mil/jimmycartercommissioning.htm.

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